



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

GUATEMALAN MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN ATTEMPT TO HIRE A HIT MAN TO MURDER A DC INMATE

Washington, D.C. - A Guatemalan man residing in Hyattsville, Maryland, has pled guilty to attempting to hire a hit man in 2005 to kill an inmate at the D.C. Jail, announced United States Attorney Kenneth L. Wainstein and Frank G. Marwood Acting Special Agent-in-Charge for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Moscoso-Espana, 20, a Guatemalan citizen illegally residing in Hyattsville, MD, pled guilty today in U.S. District Court before the Honorable Reggie B. Walton to use of interstate commerce facilities in the commission of a murder-for-hire. The defendant, who will be sentenced on June 16, 2006, faces a possible maximum sentence of 10 years of incarceration.

During today's plea proceeding, Moscoso-Espana admitted that in the fall of 2005, he paid a District man, who unbeknownst to him was cooperating for the government, money for the purpose of having an inmate at the D.C. jail murdered. He further admitted that, in arranging the murder-for-hire, he used a telephone to set up meetings and that he and the cooperating witness traveled back and forth between Maryland and D.C. for these meetings, which were recorded by the cooperating witness.

Specifically, Moscoso-Espana admitted that, on October 11, 2005, the defendant called the cooperating witness on the telephone and asked him to meet at the Hess gas station in the 1900 block of New Jersey Ave, NW, Washington, D.C. At that meeting, the defendant asked the cooperating witness to have an inmate at the DC jail murdered. The defendant identified the inmate by first name, and gave the cooperating witness the inmate's visiting days and jail identification number. The inmate, also from Guatemala, was incarcerated at the D.C. Jail on drug charges. On October 14, 2005, the defendant again met with the cooperating witness at the

Hess gas station in Washington, D.C. The defendant stated that he “want[ed] to kill” the inmate. The cooperating witness indicated that he knew people in the D.C. jail with the target. The defendant instructed the cooperating witness to have them get contact names and phone numbers from the inmate before he was killed.

The defendant again arranged to meet with the cooperating witness in Hyattsville, MD, near the defendant’s home, on October 18, 2005. At that meeting, the defendant agreed to pay \$15,000, payable over a period of time in installments, for the murder of the inmate. Finally, on October 21, 2005, the defendant and cooperating witness met in Maryland, and the defendant gave the cooperating witness \$100 as an initial down-payment for the murder.

The defendant was arrested on October 22, 2005. After being read his rights, he admitted to attempting to have the D.C. inmate killed, stating that he did not like the inmate. He further stated that he wanted to get telephone contact information for the inmate’s drug sources before the inmate was killed so he could take over the source and make money.

In announcing the guilty plea, United States Attorney Wainstein and [DHS official] commended the work of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Special Agents Steven Soggin and David Hepler. They also commended Legal Assistant Carolyn Carter-Mckinley. Finally, he commended Assistant United States Attorneys Nancy Jackson and Ann Petalas, who investigated and prosecuted the case.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.